

JB

M2/33

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
MORLEY LANE,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BML02)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT L13840
SOURCES L18487 L18488
13570 L181256 EMed - Med
13647 L183906 Post Medieval

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
MORLEY LANE,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BML02)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr C Hawes

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

November 2002

Planning Application No: B/02/0666/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF 2265 3750
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.316

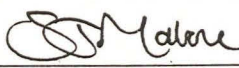
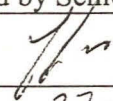
A.P.S. Report No. **208/02**



Quality Control

Morley Lane, Bicker BML 02

Project Coordinator	Steve Malone
Site supervisor	Barry Martin
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Mark Dymond and Steve Thomson
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Steve Thomson

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Steve Malone	 Tom Lane
Date: 27-11-02	Date: 27-11-02

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching brief	1
	2.2 Planning Background	1
	2.3 Topography and Geology	1
	2.4 Archaeological Setting	2
3.	Aims	3
4.	Methods	3
5.	Results	3
6.	Discussion	5
7.	Conclusions	6
8.	Acknowledgements	6
9.	Bibliography	6
10.	Abbreviations	7

Appendices

1	Specification for archaeological watching brief
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Finds by <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor</i>
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting
- Figure 3 Detailed site plan
- Figure 4 House foundations showing features and section locations
- Figure 5 Garage foundations
- Figure 6 Section drawings 1-5
- Figure 7 Section drawings 6 & 7

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General View of site looking northwest
- Plate 2 Section 1, looking southwest
- Plate 3 Cut 017 and possible salt production waste deposits looking southwest
- Plate 4 Possible seabank deposits looking west
- Plate 5 Possible seabank deposits looking north
- Plate 6 Cut 017 looking northwest

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during development on land at Morley Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire, as the site lay within an archaeologically sensitive area.

The development lies in close proximity to sites of Romano-British date and it is also likely that one end of a Roman thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, originated in the vicinity of Bicker and the nearby village of Donington.

Archaeological evaluation of the area revealed evidence of medieval occupation and industrial activity in the form of iron smithing and salt production in the vicinity.

During the course of the investigation alluvial silts, probably of late Romano-British origin, were the earliest deposits encountered. Layers of silts were also recorded which may represent salt production in close proximity to the site. Dumped deposits, possibly related to part of a medieval sea bank, were also identified.

Post-medieval occupation of the site during the 15th – 18th centuries was identified in the form of refuse pits. The site appears to have been abandoned during the 18th century.

Pottery dating from the 9th – 18th centuries was recovered together with ceramic building material fragments, animal bone and an iron artefact.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, *'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any*

operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 23rd and 24th July 2002 during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling and detached garage on land at Morley Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire. The land had previously been subject to archaeological evaluation (PCA 2001).

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application number B/02/0066/FULL to Boston Borough Council. Planning permission was granted subject to a condition requiring a watching brief during groundworks.

The archaeological recording was commissioned by Mr C Hawes and carried out by Archaeological Project Services (APS) in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Bicker is located 12km southwest of Boston and 17km southeast of Sleaford in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). Local topography is relatively flat, reflecting the fen landscape in this part of the country.

The site lies on the north side of Morley Lane in the historic core of the village. Situated at a height of c. 4.m OD the land

slopes gradually to the south and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2265 3750. Local soils are predominantly Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils developed on roddons in the reclaimed marshlands (Robson 1990, 26). However, where medieval salt making has occurred, the soils often become more silty and contain ash and charcoal (*ibid.*, 27). Beneath these deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The likelihood of evidence for prehistoric remains in the Bicker area is remote as the contemporary landscape lies several metres below the present ground surface. Likewise, much of the Romano-British surface locally, lies beneath later silts (Waller 1994).

An important Roman thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, is believed to have originated near Donington and continued west to Grantham and beyond (Margary 1973, 223). Romano-British pottery has also been found within the village *c.* 200m northeast of the church (Fig. 2 - SK04/035). A settlement, probably dating to this period, has been identified from aerial photographs to the northwest of the village.

During the later part of the Saxon period land reclamation was underway from both the sea and fen and by the 10th - 11th centuries Bicker had developed into a sizeable settlement centred around a church. Anglo-Saxon worked stones have been noted in the fabric of St. Swithin's church and may relate to an earlier structure. Salt extraction also began here during this period though the location of the Saxon salterns is unknown. Saxon pottery has been found to the north of the village (Fig 2. SK04/013).

Bicker lay at the head of Bicker Haven, an ancient estuary that discharged into The Wash. It became an important salt-production centre and was utilized as a small port.

South of the development site are mounds representing probable medieval salterns (Fig. 2 SK04/025 & SK04/026). Other salterns exist between Bicker and the neighbouring village of Donington and were recorded during construction of the Bicker bypass (Healey 1999). Medieval sea banks are also located in the area, with one, marked by Donington Road.

Despite efforts to maintain the Haven channel to the village between 1359 and 1413 (Healey 1999, 99), the Haven gradually silted up, leading to the decline of Bicker and other neighbouring villages in the area. It also heralded the end of salt production locally.

Archaeological evaluation of the area identified deposits possibly associated with medieval industrial activity in the form of iron working and salt production (PCA 2001).

Previous watching briefs have been undertaken immediately to the southwest of the development area on Red Lion Street, revealing ditches and pits of medieval and post-medieval date, with evidence of a structure and associated refuse pits of medieval date (Thomson 2002).

Waste materials, possibly associated with medieval salt-making were also found. These medieval remains were covered by a silt deposit, probably formed by agricultural activity or natural soil transformation processes.

Post medieval activity is also evidenced on Red Lion Street (*Ibid*) and to the southwest of the development in the form of pottery kiln wasters (Fig.2 SK04/40). To the east is the site of a post-medieval windmill (Fig 2. SK04/036).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the development should be recorded and, if present, to determine their spatial arrangement, date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the new dwelling and garage were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed blade to depths of up to 1.12m. The sides and bases of the trenches were inspected and cleaned to reveal archaeological features. Each deposit or feature revealed within the foundations was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Recording of deposits and features was undertaken to APS' standard practice.

A colour slide photographic record was compiled and sections were recorded at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. A 1:50 scale plan was produced detailing the position of recorded features and section locations. In addition, spoil was monitored to retrieve artefacts, which may have assisted in the interpretation of the site.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were examined. A list of all contexts and

interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant (Appendix 3). A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers shown in bold and brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, four phases were identified;

- 5.1 Phase 1 - Alluvial deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 - Medieval deposits
- 5.3 Phase 3 - Post-medieval deposits
- 5.4 Phase 4 - Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 - Alluvial deposits

The earliest recorded deposits comprised a mid-yellowish brown silty sand (**008**) greater than 0.3m thick within the dwelling foundations and a light yellowish brown silty sand (**021**) within the garage. Both deposits were identified as alluvium.

5.2 Phase 2 - Medieval deposits

Within the northern half of the site a sequence of silts was recorded (**005**) (Fig. 6 – section 1, Plate 2) which contained patches of burnt silt and clay. The stratigraphy was clearer in the northeast corner of the foundations (Fig. 6 – section 5, Plate 3) where this could be seen to comprise layers of light yellowish brown silt (**028, 030, 032**) and dark grey silt (**029, 031**). The deposits were interpreted as

possibly representing dumped material related to salt production.

Similar layered sequences were recorded towards the eastern edge of the foundations (**037, 038**) (Plate 3).

In the southwestern corner of the dwelling foundations, a series of deposits (**010 & 004=024, 025, 026, 027**) (Plates 4 & 5) were noted to form a mound. The deposits were deliberately dumped, not alluvially formed, and appeared to create a mound or bank oriented broadly north-south, the eastern edge of which was exposed.

Pottery of 12th – 15th century date was recovered from (**004**), though the nature of the excavation precluded relating these to specific layers. A small sherd of 17th century pottery was also recovered but this appeared to be intrusive.

5.3 Phase 3 – Post-medieval deposits

A series of pits and ditches was recorded in the dwelling foundations and two pits in the garage.

Partially exposed in the northwest corner of the dwelling foundations was a feature measuring 1.5m north-south and 0.45m east-west (**007**) (Fig. 6 – sections 1 & 2). The feature was interpreted as a pit and was filled with a mid-reddish brown silt (**006**) containing mussel shell fragments and bone. A single sherd of pottery of 11th – 12th century date was recovered as residual material from (**006**) together with animal bone and coal.

Truncating the Phase 2 bank or mound was a partially exposed linear cut (**003**) measuring 2.65m north-south and greater than 0.6m east-west. The feature was interpreted as a pit and was filled with a mid-reddish brown

silt (**002**) containing occasional shell and brick fragments.

Pit (**034**) lay to the east of (**003**) and measured 0.6m wide and greater than 0.7m east-west. A mid-reddish brown silt (**033**) filled the pit.

Located in the southern central area of the dwelling foundation, pit (**036**) measured 1.35m long and greater than 1m wide and was filled with a mid-reddish brown silt (**035**).

To the northeast of (**036**), pit (**015**) was partially exposed. Measuring 1.8m by 0.6m, a mid-yellowish brown silt (**014**) containing occasional charcoal fragments. Pottery of 11th – 14th century date and hand made post-medieval brick was recovered from (**014**).

The final pit recorded in the dwelling foundations (**017**) (Plates 3 & 6, Fig. 6, sections 4 & 5) was located in the northeast corner of the footings. The pit was filled with a mid-yellowish brown silt (**016**).

In the northwest corner of the foundations, a linear cut (**013**) (Fig. 6 – section 3) was identified as a ditch. The ditch was 1.05m wide and 1.05m deep and contained a primary fill of dark blackish grey silt (**012**) containing occasional shell fragments and frequent brick fragments. A dark reddish brown silt (**011**) containing occasional charcoal flecks formed the upper fill of the ditch. Animal bone, post-medieval brick and pottery of 16th – 17th date was recovered from (**012**) together with redeposited medieval pot sherds. 16th – 17th century pottery was recovered from (**011**).

Within the garage foundations (Fig. 5) were two pits. Pit (**020**) (Fig. 7 – section 7)

measured 4.6m north-south and 1.05m east-west and was filled with a grey silt (019) containing occasional charcoal flecks.

Truncating (020) was a pit (023) 1.08m wide and 0.65m deep (Fig. 7 – section 7) containing a light yellowish brown silty sand (022). Handmade brick of post-medieval date was recovered from (022).

5.4 Phase 4 - Modern deposits

The most recent deposit encountered during the investigation comprised a dark reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (001, 018). Animal bone, brick, pantile and pottery of the 13th – 18th centuries was retrieved from the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits were represented by an alluvial silt. This is in keeping with sediments previously identified during archaeological investigations in the village and is likely to represent marine sedimentation. It is also possible that this is of relatively early date, being overlain by deposits containing 12th century pottery. Radiocarbon dating evidence from Swineshead, to the northeast, gives two dates of 395-535 cal. AD and 315-425 cal AD for deposition of similar sediments (Waller 1994). The proximity of the two villages and similar Ordnance Datum make it highly likely that these represent the same phase of flooding, occurring around the end of the Romano-British period.

Phase 2 deposits comprised sequences of layers of silts and silty sands. Located towards the southwest corner of the dwelling were a series of dumped deposits which appeared to create a mound or bank. The deposits were not alluvial in origin and were

oriented in the opposite direction to the nearby water course, ruling out a relationship with this. Whilst the caveat that these were only partially exposed must be made, it is suggested that these may represent part of a medieval sea bank, perhaps a continuation of that which is fossilised in Donington Road to the south, or relate to deposits dumped against a former seabank.

Pottery recovered from the layers dated from the 12th to 15th centuries. Whilst the earlier 12th or 13th century material may be contemporary with the latest phases of construction of seabanks and salt production in the vicinity, the later pottery is unlikely to be so. Land reclamation was well underway and salt production had moved towards Gosberton during the medieval period (T.Lane *pers. comm.*). This would support the latter interpretation, suggesting the dumping of material rather than the deposits representing part of the seabank itself.

In the northern and eastern areas of the footings, a variation in the deposits was noted. Here, more finely layered deposits containing patches of burnt silt and thin dark blackish grey sequences were observed. Many of the deposits are similar to those associated with salt production, in particular to those identified during excavation of a medieval saltern at Wainfleet St. Mary (McAvoy 1994). However, the Wainfleet site displayed a regular layout of filtration units in contrast to the variable size of the pits identified during this investigation. It is more likely that salt production was not carried out on site, but in close proximity, with associated waste material being dumped in the development area.

This would then suggest that the recorded

pits are associated with a further phase of later domestic occupation. This is borne out by the pottery assemblage, indicating domestic usage, with redeposition of earlier material occurring. Furthermore, the fact that the pits do not appear to intercut may indicate that their locations were known and related to one phase of occupation.

The main period of occupation of the site would appear to be post-medieval, 15th – 18th century, with the site abandoned after this time. The high percentage of medieval pottery within the recovered assemblage would also suggest medieval domestic occupation, though salters are known to have lived in proximity to salt production sites, and this may represent refuse related to such activity.

Unfortunately, the limited exposure of archaeological deposits and features makes understanding of the site difficult. In particular the origin of the layers of silts is problematic. They may represent saltern waste or dumped deposits, possibly remnants of a medieval sea bank. Furthermore, the nature of the excavations precluded precise dating of the sequence of events on site. Similar deposits have been recorded on Red Lion Street, where it was pointed out that interpretation of archaeological deposits was facilitated through the use of raft construction as opposed to foundation trenches (Thomson 2002). Understanding of the archaeological deposits encountered during the current investigation is somewhat hampered by partial exposure in relatively narrow foundation trenches.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Morley Lane, Bicker,

Lincolnshire as the site lay within an archaeologically sensitive area, in proximity to archaeological remains of medieval date.

The investigation revealed a complex range of deposits which may be related to salt production and domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity. Medieval dumped deposits, possibly against, or related to a seabank, were also identified.

Post-medieval occupation was recorded in the form of refuse pits, with abandonment of the site occurring during the 18th century.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C Hawes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone, who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Dave Start and Rebecca Wilcox kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cameron, K., 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place Names*.

Dymond, M., 1996 *Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Donington Road and south of Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire (BDR96)*

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, 1996

Report on Geophysical Survey Donington Road, Bicker, Lincolnshire. Unpublished Report No. **96/02**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Healey, H., 1999 'A Medieval Salt-making Site in Bicker Haven, Lincolnshire', in Bell, A., Gurney, D. and Healey, H., *Lincolnshire Salterns: Excavations at Helpringham, Holbeach St Johns and Bicker Haven*, East Anglian Archaeology **89**

McAvoy, F., 1994 Marine Salt Extraction : The Excavation of Salterns at Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincolnshire in *Medieval Archaeology* Volume **38**, pp 134-163

Margary, I.D., 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

PCA, 2001 *Archaeological Evaluation Report; Morley Farm, Morley Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire* PCA unpublished report

Robson, J.D., 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding District.* Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain

Thomson, S., 2002 *Archaeological Watching Brief of Development on land at Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire.* APS unpublished report No. **5/02**

Waller, M., 1994 *The Fenland Project Number 9: Flandrian Environmental Change in Fenland.* East Anglian Archaeology **70**

10. ABBREVIATIONS

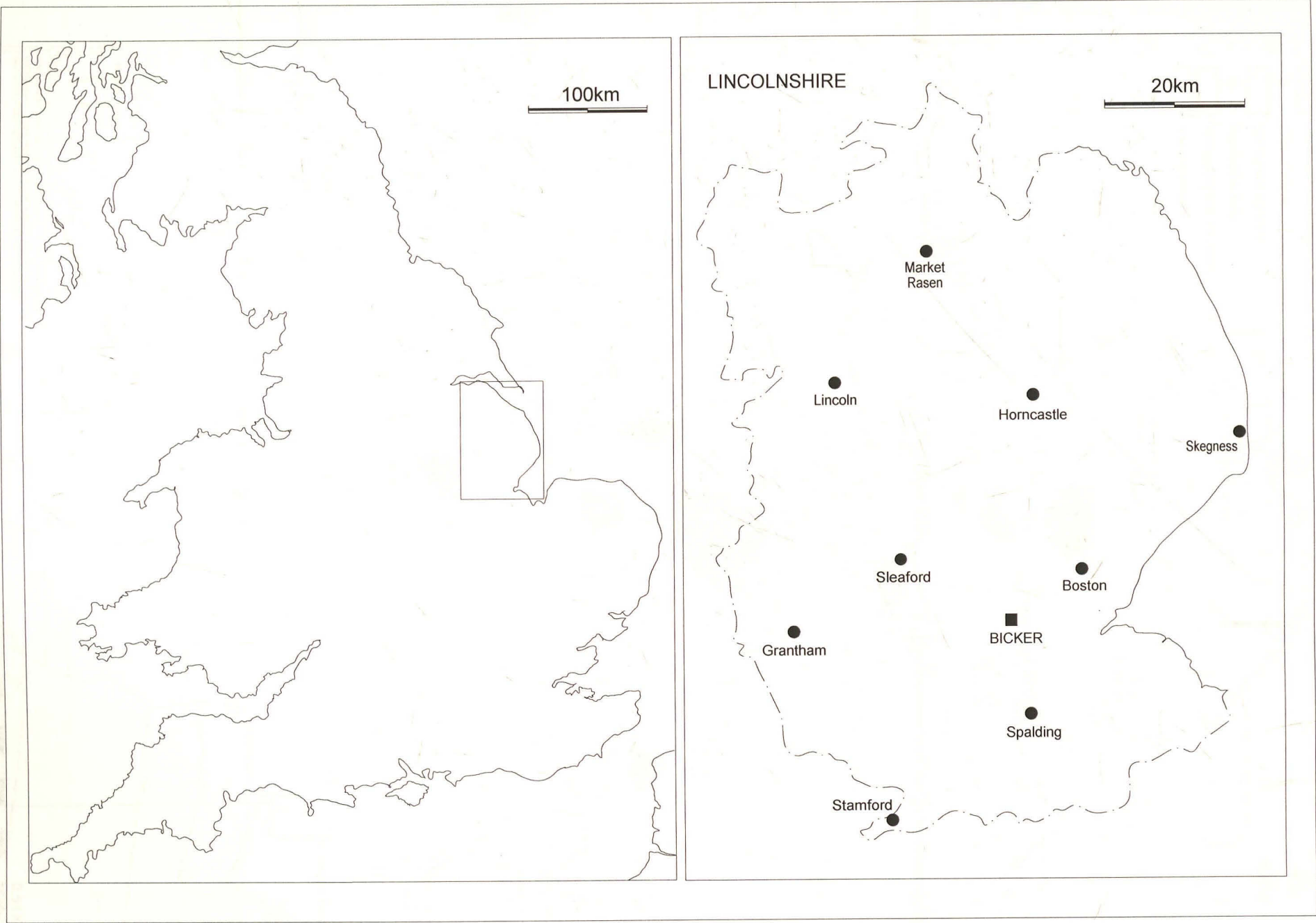
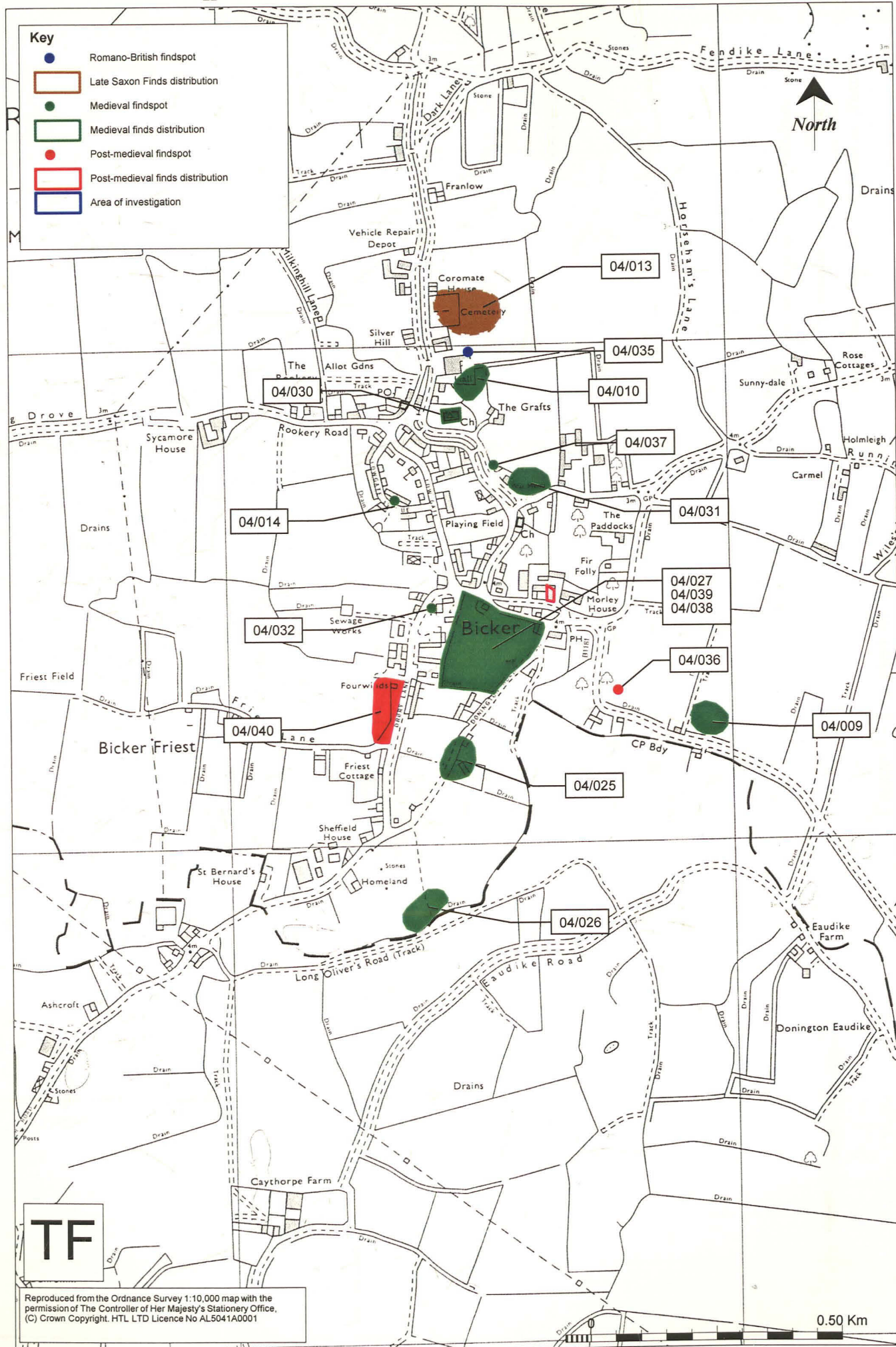


Figure 1: General Location Plan

38

37



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL LTD Licence No AL5041A0001

Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

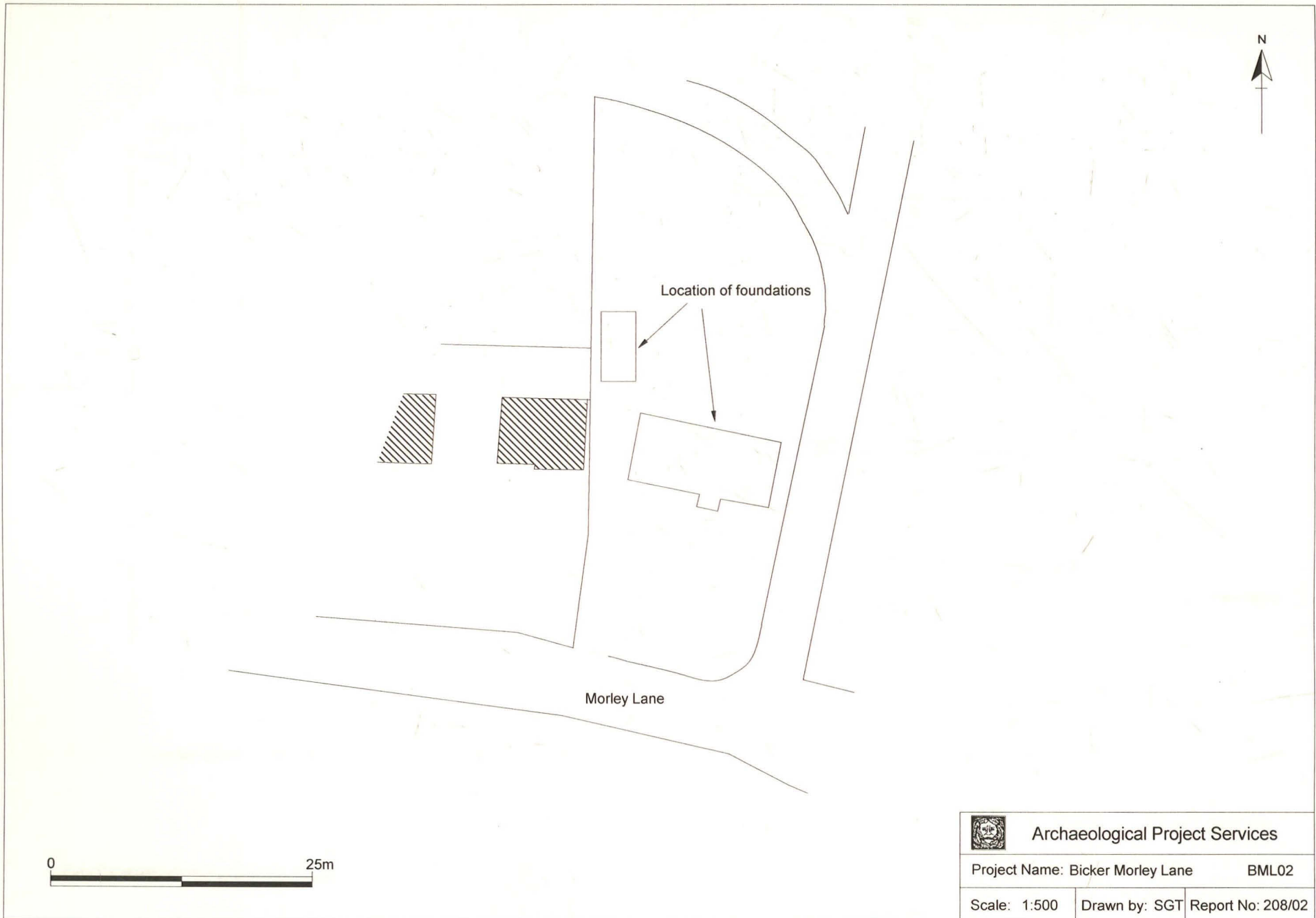


Figure 3 - Detailed site plan

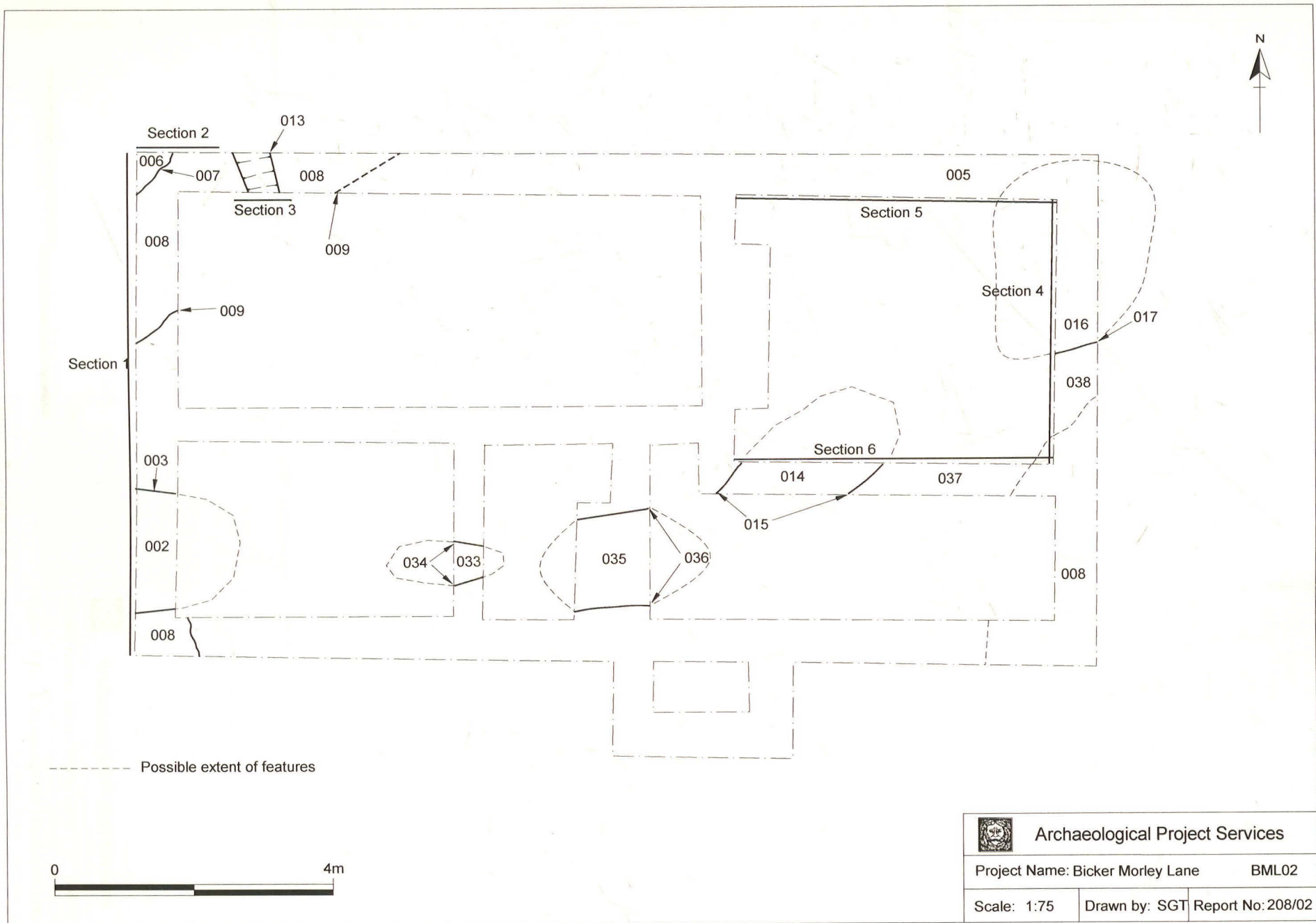
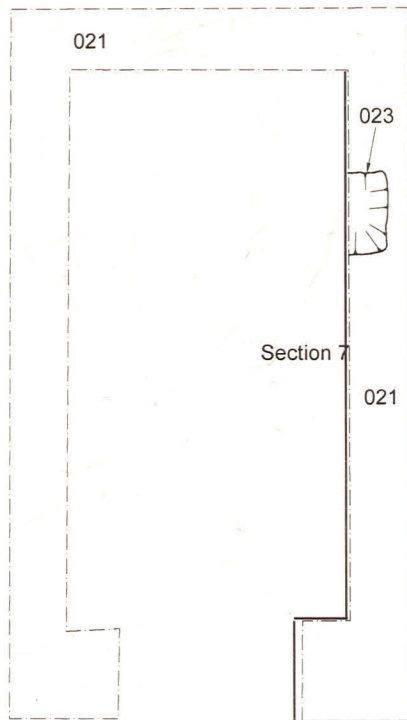


Figure 4 - House foundations showing features and section locations

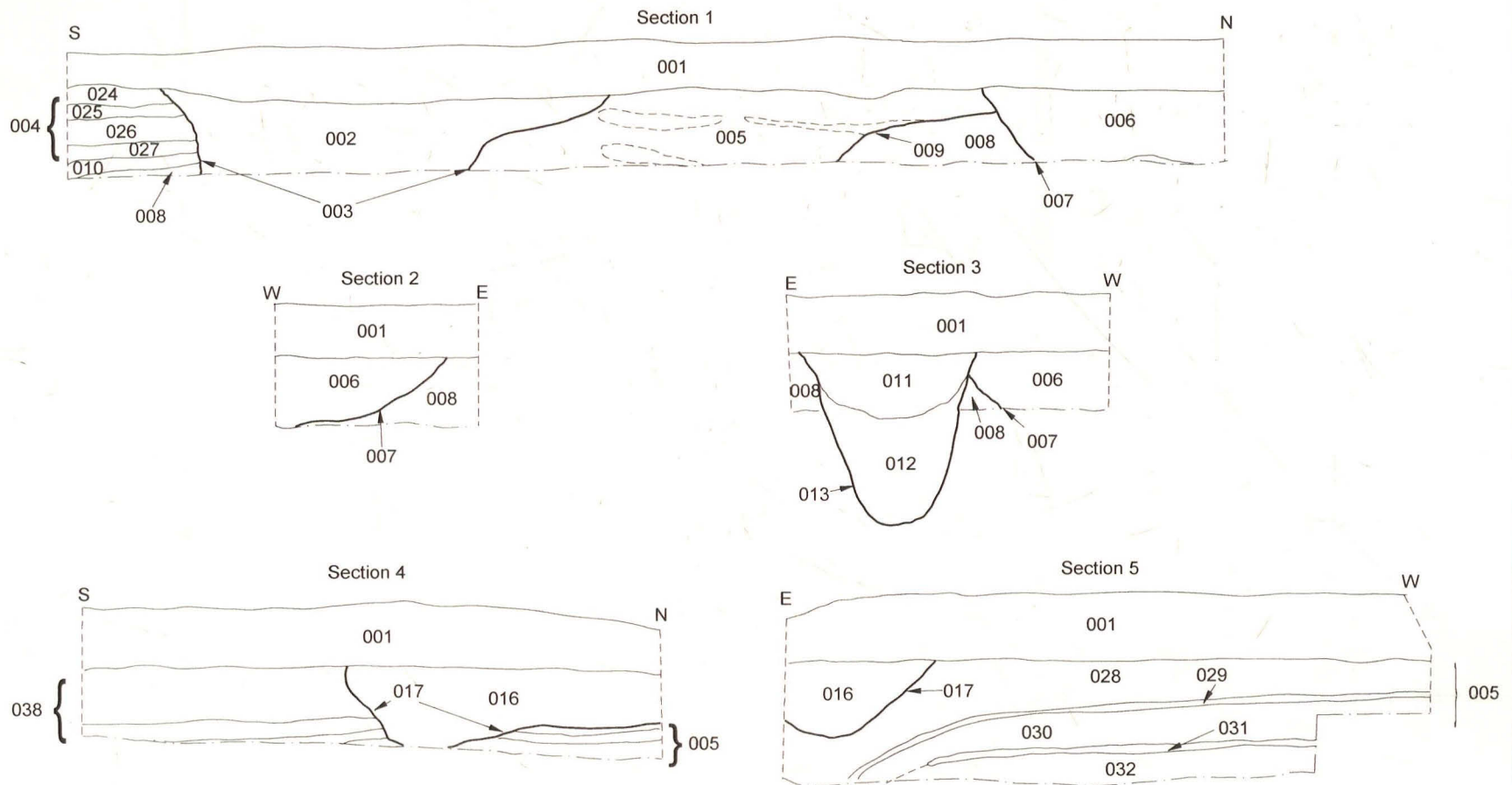


Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Bicker Morley Lane BML02

Scale: 1:75 Drawn by:SGT Report No: 208/02

Figure 5 - Garage foundations




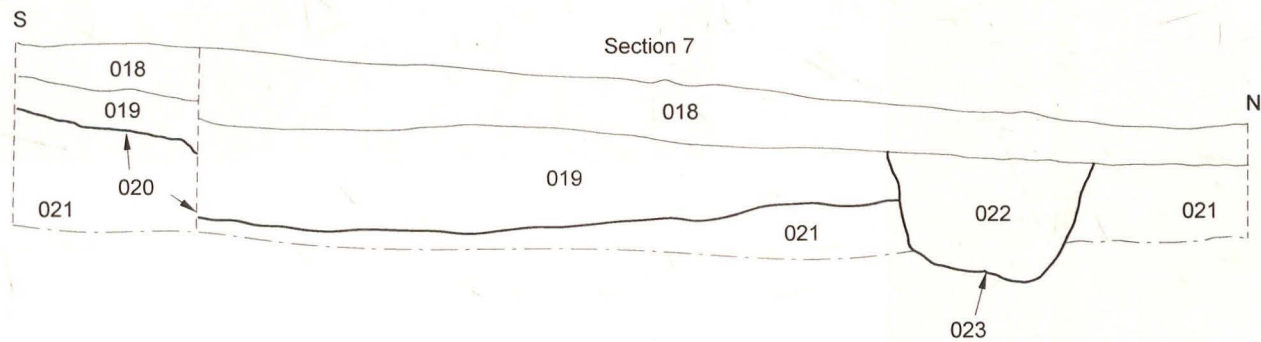
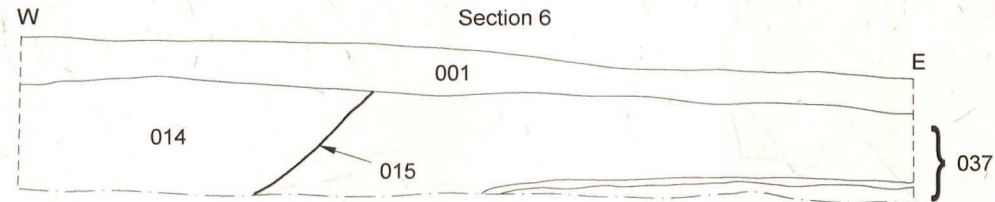
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Bicker Morley Lane		BML02
Scale: 1:40	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 208/02

Figure 6 - Section drawings 1-5




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Bicker Morley Lane		BML02
Scale: 1:40	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 208/02

Figure 7 - Section drawings 6 & 7



Plate 1 General View of site looking northwest



Plate 2 Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 Cut 017 and possible salt production waste deposits looking southwest



Plate 4 Possible seabank deposits looking west



Plate 5 Possible seabank deposits looking south



Plate 6 Cut 017 looking northwest

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
MORLEY LANE,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
MR C HAWES**

JUNE 2002

1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at Morley Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Bicker was a Domesday settlement and Late Saxon pottery has been found in the area. It was a notable trading community in the early medieval period and was also important for its production of salt. Previous work in the vicinity of the development area has revealed archaeological remains dating to the 13th century and earlier, together with finds and other material which suggest salt making sites nearby.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 **INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a single dwelling at Plot 1, Morley Lane, Bicker, near Boston. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2265 3750.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 **SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the coast of the Wash. The village of Bicker is located approximately 10km to the southwest of Boston and lies within the administrative district of Boston. The site is on the north side of Morley Lane at National Grid Reference TF 2265 3750.

4 **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application number B/02/0066/FULL) for the construction of a single dwelling has been granted by Boston Borough Council, subject to a condition for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The local topography is relatively flat and the site lies at approximately 4m OD. Soils in the area are predominantly of the Romney series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils over calcareous or sandy silt loams. These deposits overlie Jurassic clays.

6 **THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 6.1 Bicker was a Domesday settlement and has produced late Saxon pottery. During the early
-

medieval period Bicker was an important trading centre due to its position on the Bicker Haven which silted up in the late medieval period. Bicker was also important for its production of salt and the shores of the haven are lined with salt making sites.

- 6.2 Rubbish pits and boundary or drainage ditches of 13th century date were revealed during archaeological watching brief to the south of the proposed development. Other finds included building material and slag suggesting that there may be a salt processing site nearby (Archaeological Project Services 1994).
- 6.3 An archaeological evaluation of land to the south of the proposed development revealed ditches and gullies representing medieval and post-medieval boundaries. Industrial material was also recovered which may have been associated with salt-making (Archaeological Project Services 1996).
- 6.4 Other watching briefs to the south of the site have revealed medieval pits and ditches, including examples containing abundant sea shells (Archaeological Project Services 1997).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
 - 8.2 Methodology
 - 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - 8.2.2 The section of the trench will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10.
-

Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled and will consist of:
- ≤ The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - ≤ groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. The appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- ≤ A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - ≤ A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - ≤ Description of the topography of the site.

SPECIFICATION FOR WATCHING BRIEF AT MORLEY LANE, BICKER

- ≤ Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - ≤ A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - ≤ A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - ≤ Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - ≤ Sections of the archaeological features.
 - ≤ Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - ≤ Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - ≤ Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.
- 10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**
- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 11 **ARCHIVE**
- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.
- 12 **PUBLICATION**
- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.
- 13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.
- 14 **VARIATIONS**
- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council.
- 15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**
- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
-

- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust Roman: B Precious, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist.
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent specialists.
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 1994 *Archaeological Watching Brief of a Development at Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire*, unpublished report

Archaeological Project Services, 1996 *Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Donington Road and south of Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire (BDR96)*, unpublished report

Archaeological Project Services, 1997 *Archaeological Watching Brief of Development of land at Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire (BRL97)*, unpublished APS report 36/97

Specification: Version 1, 27 June 2002

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm, dark reddish brown sandy silt containing occasional shell and brick fragments, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Soft, mid-reddish brown silt containing occasional charcoal and mussel shell fragments	Fill of 003
003	1	Partially exposed linear cut, 2.65m N-S x 0.6m exposed	Pit
004	1	Firm, series of silt layers (Contexts 024 – 027, 0.5m thick extending >14m E-W	See – 024 – 027
005	1	Firm, layers of silt and sand, including layers of burnt silt & clay	See 028 – 032
006	1,2	Soft, mid-reddish brown silt containing occasional mussel shell fragments and bone	Fill of 007
007	1,2	Cut feature measuring 1.5m N-S x >0.45m E-W x 0.45m deep, steeply sloping sides	Refuse pit
008	1	Soft, mottled mid-yellowish brown silty sand >0.3m thick	Alluvial deposit
009	1	Irregular ?cut, NE-SW, >14m long	Context interface
010	1	Firm, light reddish brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks, partially exposed, extends 0.6m N-S x 1m E-W	Dumped deposit
011	3	Firm, dark reddish brown silt, containing occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of 013
012	3	Soft, dark blackish grey silt containing occasional charcoal and mussel shell fragments and frequent brick fragments	Fill of 013
013	3	Linear cut, >0.6 N-S x 1.05m E-W x 1.05m deep	Pit
014	6	Firm, mid-yellowish brown silt, containing occasional charcoal fragments	Fill of 015
015	6	Linear cut, 1.8m wide x >0.6m long, NE-SW orientation	Pit
016	4,5	Firm, mid-yellowish brown silt, containing occasional charcoal fragments	Fill of 017
017	4,5	Linear cut, 1.9m wide x >0.9m long NE-SW orientation	Pit
018	7	Firm, dark reddish brown sandy silt containing occasional shell and brick fragments, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
019	7	Firm, grey silt containing occasional charcoal fleck	Fill of 020
020	7	Probable linear cut, 4.6m N-S x 1.05m E-W, 0.8m deep	Possible pit

021	7	Firm, light yellowish brown, silty sand	Alluvial deposit
022	7	Firm, light yellowish brown silt containing frequent brick fragments	Fill of 023
023	7	Cut feature 1.08m N-S x >0.3m E-W x 0.65m deep, steep sides rounded base	Pit
024	1	Firm, mid-yellowish brown silt, 0.1m thick	?Construction deposit for seabank
025	1	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, 0.1m thick	?Construction deposit for seabank
026	1	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, 0.14m thick	?Construction deposit for seabank
027	1	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, 0.1m thick	?Construction deposit for seabank
028	5	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, up to 0.4m thick	Possible saltern waste
029	5	Firm, dark grey silt, 40mm thick	Possible saltern waste
030	5	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, 0.22m thick	Possible saltern waste
031	5	Firm, dark grey silt, 30mm thick	Possible saltern waste
032	5	Firm, light yellowish brown silt, >0.2m thick	Possible saltern waste
033	-	Soft, mid-reddish brown silt containing occasional charcoal and mussel shell fragments	Fill of 034
034	-	Linear cut, 0.7m E-W x 0.6m N-S, E-W orientation	Possible pit
035	-	Soft, mid-reddish brown silt containing occasional charcoal and mussel shell fragments	Fill of 036
036	-	Linear cut, >1m long x 1.35m wide, E-W orientation	Possible pit
037	6	Sequence of bands of silts	Same as 005 – possible saltern waste
038	4	Sequence of bands of silts	Same as 005 – possible saltern waste

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 28 fragments of pottery weighing 893g was recovered from 7 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other objects, predominantly brick/tile, comprising 12 items weighing a total of 1381g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001, 018), a dumped deposit (004) and pit fills (006, 011, 012, 014, 022).

Most of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Bicker, at Bourne 21km to the southwest, and Toynton All Saints, 30km to the northeast. There are also fragments of imports from Holland.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	BOU	Bourne D ware, sooted externally, cooking pot, 15 th -16 th century	1	20	15 th -16 th century
	TUY	Toynton All Saints-type ware, 1 sooted externally, 13 th -16 th century	2	111	
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware, 15 th -16 th century	1	5	
004	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, sooted externally, 12 th -14 th century	2	23	16 th -17 th century
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware jug, 13 th -15 th century	1	52	
	POTT?	Potterhanworth ware? 13 th -14 th century	1	37	
	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, sooted externally, 12 th -13 th century	1	16	
	MY	Midlands Yellow ware, burnt, 16 th -17 th century	1	10	
006	SLSTCW	South Lincs. sandy ware	1	6	11 th -12 th century
011	BOU/GRE	Bourne D/Glazed red earthenware, sooted externally, 17 th century	1	28	17 th century
	DUTR	Dutch glazed red earthenware type, 16 th -17 th century	1	3	
012	DUTR	Dutch glazed red earthenware type, 16 th -17 th century	1	19	16 th -17 th century
	TOYII	Toynton All Saints ware, incl pancheon, 15 th -16 th century	5(2 link)	234	
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware jug, 13 th -15 th century	1	205	
	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, 12 th -13 th century	1	17	

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	ST	Stamford ware, 9 th -12 th century	1	7	
014	ST	Stamford ware, 1 glazed, 1 sooted externally, 11 th -12 th century	3	17	12 th -14 th century
	BOUA	Bourne A ware, sooted externally, 12 th -14 th century	1	9	
018	BOU	Bourne D ware, 16 th -17 th century	1	41	18 th century
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 th century	1	33	

Most of the contexts are of post-medieval date though many contain redeposited medieval material, with sherds of this date accounting for 53% of the pottery assemblage. Two fragments of a Dutch-type earthenware were recovered, from (011) and (012), and although these do not link they are almost certainly from the same vessel. Over one quarter (8 of the total 28 sherds) of the fragments are sooted externally, indicating probable domestic usage.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	CBM	Pantile	1	86	Post-medieval
004	CBM	Handmade brick	1	55	Post-medieval
006	Coal	Coal	3	9	
011	CBM	Handmade brick	1	45	Post-medieval
012	CBM	Handmade brick, 57mm thick	1	287	Post-medieval
014	CBM	Handmade brick	1	41	Post-medieval
018	CBM	Pantile, late post-medieval	2	191	Late post-medieval
	Iron	T-shaped fitting, ?hinge pivot	1	152	
022	CBM	Handmade brick, 105mm wide, 56mm thick, overfired	1	515	Post-medieval

Note: CBM = Ceramic building material

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
001	cattle	molar	1	26	
004	cattle sized cattle sized unknown	humerus	1	50	slightly chalky rodent gnawing
		ulna	1	24	
		unidentified	1	2	
006	cattle sized sheep sized unknown	rib	2	12	fragments chalky
		mandible	1	10	
		unidentified	4	24	
011	cattle sized sheep	metapodial	1	18	butchery marks
		rib	1	6	
012	cattle	tibia	1	62	
014	cattle sized	unidentified	1	6	
018	cattle	metatarsus	1	62	

Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Bicker that are the subjects of reports. Details of

archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The collection of medieval and early post-medieval pottery fragments is of moderate local significance. Although most of the medieval pieces are redeposited in later contexts, the quantity of material suggests occupation of the period on or in close proximity to the investigation site. Many of the contexts are of post-medieval, 15th-18th century, date and indicate occupation of the area at that time.

The lack of any material earlier than about the 9th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period and before are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development. Similarly, the dearth of any artefacts later than the 18th century would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Sediments or soils deposited by the action of water
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Early Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 410-650
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Late Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 850-1066
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Middle Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 650-850
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Used in this instance to define a place where the processes of refining and crystallising brine or briney muds into salt takes place. The word is used to embrace all aspects of the process including filtering, heating and disposal of waste materials

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

38	Context records
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2002.316

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BML02

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.